

09/830675

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Masaki TOYOTA

Serial No. NEW

Filed April 30, 2001

Attn: BOX PCT

Docket No. 2001-0506A

7/a
mDJ
4.8.04

OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS AND
CONTROL METHOD THEREOF
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/05853
Filed August 30, 2000]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced U.S. patent application please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 1 in which there is provided a detection means for detecting a consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or detecting a consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area,

and the control means controls the laser pickup so that it perform a hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area when the detection means detects the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area.